

# Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:87 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Charlotte Esau

### 2. Political Party Affiliation

Republican

### 3. District Number of Office Being Sought

14

### 4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 11702 S Winchester St

City/State/Zip : Olathe, KS 66061

### 5. Phone Number

913-484-4521

### 6. Email Address

charlotte@charlotteesau.com

### 7. Campaign Website

www.charlotteesau.com

## 2. Candidate Background

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### 8. Occupation/Work History (last 5 years - 25 words or less)

In addition to being a State Representative, I co-own a small consulting business doing computer software design, political consulting, and genealogy.

### 9. If you are or have been affiliated with a chamber of commerce or other business organization, please list which organization(s) and any leadership positions you have held.

### 10. Other recent political/community experience? (25 words or less)

Member of Olathe Civic Band; work to get grassroots activists involved as candidates/volunteers; retired La Leche League Leader, led a local group helping new mothers.

## 3. Issues and Policy

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### 11. As a candidate, what are your top three policy issues? (30 words or less)

Promoting good public policy that helps businesses grow and add good paying jobs, keeps our communities safe, and supports a solid infrastructure and forward thinking, balanced approach to development/roads.

### 12. How would you propose to balance the state budget? What specific budget cuts would you support and what revenue enhancements would you consider, if any? (100 words or less)

We must find ways to cut the cost of government without hurting those who need help the most. Whether this is best done with across the board reductions to agencies or specific ending of programs that aren't needed or effective, reasonable solutions can be found. Meanwhile we are faced with a likely reduction in tax collections due to the economic fallout from businesses being forced to shut down and lay off employees. Raising taxes on hurting Kansans is not a solution.

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**13. What are your views on state tax policy, being as specific as you can? (75 words or less)**

1) we must solve the problem caused by not raising the standard deduction on the state level when it's been raised on the federal level; 2) we must address the imbalance of corporate tax rates when compared to our neighboring states; 3) if local governments continue to burden our homeowners with ever-increasing property taxes simply because the value of their property has increased, the state must offer a modernized program of relief for our seniors.

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**14. What are your views on K-12 public education funding? (75 words or less)**

Education happens best when it meets the needs of each individual student and family. Simply spending more money that doesn't reach the classroom via teacher salaries or supplies is frustrating to parents/students/teachers/taxpayers alike. With the new challenges we are facing today, we must find innovative ways to provide educational opportunity without increasing the cost to taxpayers. K-12 funding is a huge percentage of the state budget and increasing that risks funding other essential services.

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**15. What are your priorities in the new statewide Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program? (75 words or less)**

I am excited about the direction we are going with our new transportation plan! The involvement of local citizens, input from all segments of the industry, and thinking outside the box for funding shows great promise. I will continue to advocate for improvements locally to our highways, especially K-10, I-435, and I-35 in Johnson County.

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**16. What types of economic development policies will you support to encourage job growth and business expansion in Kansas? (75 words or less)**

Low but equitable taxes, reduce regulatory burdens whenever possible without impacting basic safeguards in regards to health of workers or the community, and provide a fair, balanced approach to any tax breaks that don't favor new business over those established or vice versa.

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**17. What would you do to grow and develop the state's workforce? (75 words or less)**

Encourage businesses to make their home in Kansas, grow their business here, and hire our graduates so they have opportunities to stay in Kansas! Also reduce the burden of licensure so individuals have more options available to them when coming here from other states.

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**18. What are your views on the state's role with respect to ensuring access and affordability of post-secondary education? (75 words or less)**

The cost of post-secondary education has put it out of reach for too many or led them to take on debt that is unreasonable for the jobs available in the field they are educated in. Somehow this cost must come down without burdening taxpayers. Meanwhile we should encourage our young folks to consider all options for future work and training, not just traditional 4 year colleges.

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**19. What are your views on healthcare policy and Medicaid expansion? (75 words or less)**

Medicaid expansion would put those already waiting in line for needed services at risk of never receiving them. We have folks who need our help now, until we can meet those needs, adding additional people to the taxpayer funded Medicaid plan is unacceptable.

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**20. What role should state government have in determining workplace employment practices and benefits offered to employees? What workplace changes, if any, would you support? (75 words or less)**

Government should not allow illegal or dangerous (that can be controlled) work environments. We have good policies in place that cover these things, most on a national level. Beyond this, government needs to stay out of the way and let business succeed or fail based on employees being willing to work there.

**21. How control over decision-making is divided among the state legislature and local governments (including local school boards) on issues such as taxation, economic development, and education has been a matter of debate. What are your views on this issue? (75 words or less)**

Government closest to the people usually knows best what their needs are and how to solve them in a way that the community agrees upon. However, there is a place for state government to set policies that encourage fairness and a low tax burden.

**22. What do you believe most distinguishes you from your opponent(s) in this race? (50 words or less)**

I've raised my family here, will do whatever it takes to continue making this a great place for all families to do likewise. My experience dealing with the legislative process benefits our district when we need things done. It would be an honor to continue serving in this way!

**4. Thank You!**

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